Equal Rights

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The Woman's Party to the Rescue

In an effort to secure justice for an American-born woman, Lillian Larsh, who was recently deported to Canada, Rilla A. Nelson, chairman of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party, drove from Detroit to Wallaceburg, Canada, to see Mrs. Larsh and the municipal authorities. Apparently Mrs. Larsh and her four little girls are glad that there is a Woman's Party.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House April 25, 1929,
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY,
Pennsylvania.

The Great Need

THE Maryland General Assembly of 1931, which by an overwhelming vote denied women the right to serve on juries, completely reversed its attitude on Equal Rights toward the end of the session, when, at the request of the State's Attorneys' Association of Maryland, it passed a law repealing the old Common Law Statute under which any wife committing a crime, other than murder or treason, in the presence of her husband, could not be prosecuted. The law formerly conclusively presumed that the wife was dominated by her husband, and many women escaped prosecution under this presumption. The new law makes possible the prosecution of a wife who commits a crime in the presence of her husband. This law has been signed by the Governor and will become effective June 1, 1931.

While we wholly approve the passage of this law and believe that women, married or single, should be held responsible for their own acts, we do not find it very gallant on the part of the Maryland General Assembly or of the State's Attorneys' Association to give women additional legal responsibilities coincidently with denying them their legal rights.

If women are compos mentis so far as committing crimes is concerned, then we maintain that they are compos mentis in judging and condemning criminals.

In other words, if women are to be prosecuted and punished just like men, then we believe that they should also be permitted to prosecute and judge offenders just as men do. Any other plan is unjust to a monstrous degree.

But most men don't see it, just as, a few years ago, most men did not see the injustice to women of taxation without representation, although they had fought a great war based on that very principle for themselves.

Men in the mass never have dealt justly with women and they never will, witness the case in point, hence the great need for strengthening the Woman's Party.

No Wonder

WE WOULD call the attention of those who are praising the action of the cotton textile mills, prohibiting night work for women, to several sentences in a recent publication of the Children's Bureau called "Children of Working Mothers in Philadelphia." These pertinent sentences may be found under the heading, "Conclusions," and read:

"The indications are that mothers of children who require constant supervision and mothers of large families do not go to work except as a last resort. Then they try to obtain work at night or at hours that *interfere the least with their duties as mothers.*"

This we would say was a very commendable impulse on the part of mothers of young children and one that should not be interfered with by the law. If a woman finds that the interests of her children and her own interests are better served by her working at night rather than in the daytime, it would seem to us that the decision should be left to her and not to the law makers.

Faced with the painful alternative of working or becoming dependent upon charity, the mothers of young children "try to obtain work at night" in order to guard their children during the daytime, and we believe their judgment in the matter is more to be depended upon than that of men and women who have never themselves looked directly into the grizzly countenance of extreme poverty.

Moreover, with night work closed to them, but not to their male competitors, where are these women to look for any work at all? The daytime jobs were already occupied before the restriction on women's work at night was put through, and boys and men who were previously unemployed have taken the night jobs that the women held. So what can the women do? Neither jobs nor gold are to be found lying about in the streets of our American communities today.

The woman chooses night work because it best suits her convenience, because it offers the best job or perhaps the only job that she can get, but the iron hand of the law or the whim of the employer takes it away from her. Then she and the children that she has borne must eat the bitter bread of charity. Ask Mrs. Larsh and her four little girls how it has worked out in their case. The only reason offered by the Detroit officials for their deportation to Canada was that the family had become a "public charge." They were not delinquent, they were not vicious, they were merely unable to support themselves.

No wonder that self-respecting women demand the fundamental right, which cannot under the Constitution be denied to any man, the right to compete for their livelihood on terms of equality with men.

Conference Program Completed

THE success of the conference of party workers to be held on May 29-31, at Alva Belmont House and the Dodge Hotel, Washington, D. C., is already assured, judging from the enthusiastic response of the State branches of the National Woman's Party to the call for the conference. From Maryland alone about thirty delegates have signified their intention of attending. Among them are Dora G. Ogle, Emilie A. Doetsch, Marie Prestman, Ida I. Kloze, Mrs. J. William Funck, Florence Hanna, Edith Houghton Hooker, the Misses Kennard, Mrs. J. Preston Tippett, Edith Henneman and Helen Elizabeth Brown. Leila Enders is coming from New Jersey with other delegates from the New Jersey Branch and will speak on Sunday morning at the Round Table on "Publicity Methods." Miss Enders is chairman of the New Jersey State Branch and has been very successful with publicity and legislative work.

Ruth Hale and Doris Stevens are both coming from New York and will be guests of honor at the banquet and the Sunday afternoon reception.

Delegations are expected from States as far away as Wisconsin and many will be the reunions of old friends who have not had an opportunity of attending a meeting of the Woman's Party at Headquarters since the time of the last convention.

A "Who's Who" of the conference discloses the fact that Emilie A. Doetsch is Assistant City Solicitor of Baltimore City, the first woman ever to hold this position. Marie Prestman is a lawyer and only woman on the Maryland State Board of Moving Picture Censors. Ruth Hale is a distinguished journalist and president of the internationally famous Lucy Stone League. Ruth Allison Hudnut is a well-known writer. Dr. Kathryn McHale is director of the American Association of University Women. Doris Stevens is chairman of the Pan-American Commission of Women and Dora G. Ogle is business manager of EQUAL RIGHTS. Helen Elizabeth Brown is a very enterprising young Maryland lawyer and chairman of the Business and Professional Women's Council. Ida I. Kloze is also a lawyer. Mrs. J. William Funck is a pioneer suffragist and incidentally an excellent speaker. Ruby A. Black is Washington correspondent for an infinite number of papers, also managing editor of EQUAL RIGHTS. Florence Brewer Boeckel is a well-known writer and one time editor of *The Suffragist*, and Muna Lee, Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley and Burnita Shelton Matthews "need no introduction" to members of the National Woman's Party. In addition to this galaxy of speakers there will be a number of surprises, chief among whom, it is hoped, will be the impromptu speakers who will take the floor in the course of the discussion.

Every detail of the program is now completed, the business sessions, the informal luncheon, the sight-seeing tour which promises to be of uncommon interest, the banquet, and the Sunday afternoon reception.

Those who wisely take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy themselves usefully will long remember the conference as an inspiring occasion.

Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Employment of Women in Core Rooms

By Burnita Shelton Matthews,
Chairman, Lawyers Council,
National Woman's Party

MASSACHUSETTS became in 1912 the first State in this country to restrict women's employment at core making.[1] She was followed in 1913 by New York, in 1915 by Pennsylvania, in 1916 by Ohio, and in 1919 by Minnesota.[2] Thus there are five States having, by legislation or regulation, prohibitions or restrictions on the employment of women in core rooms.

The birth of this type of legislation and regulation in the United States was due to the insistent demand of organized men molders for the elimination of women from this work, the demand growing out of fear by the men of being displaced by women.[3]

The prohibitions and restrictions[4] are as follows:

WOMEN NOT TO HANDLE CORES HAVING TEMPERATURE OF OVER 110° F.

These States provide that no female shall be permitted to handle cores which have a temperature of more than 110 degrees Fahrenheit:

New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania

WOMEN NOT TO MAKE LARGE CORES

Three States — Minnesota, New York and Pennsylvania, do not permit women to "make or handle cores" and one State—Massachusetts—does not permit them to "work on any core" where a certain size is exceeded. These are the cores prohibited to women:

MASSACHUSETTS: A core having a cubical content exceeding 2 cubic feet, or total weight including plate, core box or boxes of over 60 pounds.

MINNESOTA: A core having a weight with box and plate of over 25 pounds.

NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA: A core having a weight with box and plate of over 15 pounds.

WOMEN NOT TO PLACE CORES IN OVENS

One State—Minnesota—does not permit the employment of women in placing cores into ovens or in taking cores out of ovens.

WOMEN NOT TO WORK IN ROOMS WHERE CORES ARE BAKED.

One State — New York — bars women from employment at or in connection with the making of cores where the oven in which cores are baked is in operation in the same room in which the cores are made.

WOMEN NOT TO LIFT CERTAIN WEIGHTS

There are two States having provisions as to the weights which may be lifted by women in foundries. These States and their provisions are as follows:

MASSACHUSETTS: Does not permit a woman to lift any core or cores upon one plate having a cubical content exceeding one cubic foot, or the total weight of which including plate and corebox, exceeds 25 pounds unless assisted by mechanical appliances limiting physical effort to 25 pounds.

OHIO: Does not permit a woman in a coremaking room to "lift any object" exceeding 25 pounds unless mechanical means are used to limit the physical effort to 25 pounds.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS REQUIRED WHEN WOMEN WORK IN ROOMS ADJOINING CORE OVENS

New York and Pennsylvania require specially constructed partitions between rooms in which women are making cores and adjoining rooms in which core ovens are located if the making and baking of cores are simultaneous operations. Ohio has a like provision applicable where "the process generates injurious gases, fumes, smoke or excessive heat." Massachusetts makes such a partition requirement dis-

cretionary with the Department of Labor and Industries where "the process generates objectionable gases, smoke and fumes in the room in which cores are made by females." When partitions are required in these four States openings between the core oven rooms and the rooms in which women are working must be vestibuled with a self-closing device to exclude gases, fumes and smoke from the rooms in which women are employed.

REFERENCES:

1. Mass. Laws 1912, Ch. 653; Mass. Bd. of Health Rules, Dec. 19, 1912.
2. N. Y. Laws 1913, Ch. 464. Pa. Industrial Bd. Regulations for Foundries, Sec. 9, 1915 (promulgated under Pa. Public Laws 1913, Act 267, Secs. 13-16). Ohio Industrial Commission Rules Nos. 34-37, 1917 (promulgated under Ohio Laws 1913, p. 95). Minn. Laws 1919, Ch. 84, Secs. 20 and 21.
3. International Molders' Journal, April, 1913, p. 272; Bulletin 66, pp. 62-64, 114-117, Women's Bureau, U. S. Dept. of Labor.
4. Massachusetts: Dept. of Labor and Industries, Bulletin No. 10, Secs. 28-30, inclusive, adopted 1917.
   Minnesota: Laws 1919, Ch. 84, Secs. 20-21. Mason's Minn. Stats. 1927 Ed., Sec. 4073.
   New York: Industrial Code, Bulletin No. 10, Rules 582-585 adopted by Industrial Bd. and effective 1915. Cahill's Consolidated Laws, 1930 Ed., Labor Law, Sec. 147.
   Ohio: Dept. of Industrial Relations, Bulletin 205 issued April, 1931, Secs. 81-84.
   Pennsylvania: Regulations for Foundries, 1929 Edition. Dept. of Labor and Industries, Rule 8.

Public Aroused Over Deportation Case

THE indignation and the sympathy of the public was aroused over the deportation of an American-born woman just because she married a Canadian, now dead, and is illiterate, jobless, and destitute. This case of the sudden snatching of Lillian Larsh, an American woman with four children, the oldest 11 years old, and taking her to a foreign country where she has no relatives, graphically and vividly pictured to the country the inequalities which women still suffer. The country which did not educate her now throws her into another country. The National Woman's Party revealed her plight.

But public interest and indignation should be equally aroused by the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Wool Institute that women be eliminated from night work (for pay) in the wool mills, declares Jane Norman Smith, member of the National Council of the National Woman's Party. The decision of the Board of Directors was made April 29 and it recommended that all women be thrown out of night work by July 31. No provision appears to have been recommended for furnishing jobs for these women. At least, the public officials of Wallaceburg, Ontario, where Mrs. Larsh was sent, have been sufficiently interested to try to do something for her and to ask the aid of the National Woman's Party in solving her problem.

Of the action of the Board of Directors of the Wool Institute, Mrs. Smith says further:

"This means the addition of large numbers to the hopeless army of the unemployed. One of the arguments used for the deportation of Mrs. Larsh was the fact that she was without work and a charge on the City of Detroit. Yet here is a great industry which is deliberately recommending a policy which means that self-supporting women, who now have jobs and are faithfully and efficiently working at them, be suddenly reduced to a similar condition of economic helplessness."

Mrs. Smith declared that the Wool Institute's policy threatens the integrity of our national industrial life. She pointed out that women are being dismissed for no other reason than that they are women.

Mrs. Smith explained that there is a world-wide protest on the part of women against these attempts to force them out of industry. She called attention to the fifth annual meeting of the Open Door Council held last week in London, at which a vigorous demand was made by women for Equal Rights in industry. The Open Door Council declared at this conference that no night work convention will be acceptable to women unless it provides that any prohibition or regulation of night work be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

THE National Woman's Party is seeking to help both the women workers in the wool mills and Mrs. Larsh.

As soon as the Party learned of Mrs. Larsh's case and acquired sufficient facts about her, Mrs. Max Rotter of Wisconsin appeared before immigration officials of the Department of Labor and insisted upon further consideration and another hearing. No reply to this request had been received as this issue of Equal Rights goes to press.

Immediately, likewise, the chairman of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party, Rilla A. Nelson, got in her car and drove to Wallaceburg to see Mrs. Larsh, learn more details, and offer her the aid of the National Woman's Party in regaining her citizenship in her native country, if that is possible under the law.

On May 2, Mrs. Nelson wrote to Muna Lee, director of national activities, of the interview with Mrs. Larsh in part as follows:

"I drove to Wallaceburg, seventy miles, the first thing today, and saw Mrs. Larsh and the municipal authorities. The story she tells is in substance what you already know.

"The people of Wallaceburg have been kindness itself to these poor victims, but both Mayor J. T. Saint and Harry Shirley express themselves as indignant for having officials dump deportees on their small community without any notice whatsoever.

"People who knew Mr. Larsh say that he was not feeble-minded. Only about a year before he went to the Receiving Hospital did he begin acting unbalanced, probably because of the tumor on the brain from which he died. Mrs. Larsh says that several years before his queerness developed he was hit on the head with a chisel while employed by a tile company, and she thinks that had something to do with his trouble.

"Mrs. Larsh has four children, all girls. The eldest, Lorraine, was born in the United States. Mrs. Larsh says nobody told her she could regain her citizenship. They merely told her she was to be ready to leave the country.

"Mayor Saint of Wallaceburg and Harry Shirley, chairman of the Wallaceburg Charity Committee, say that they will see the matter through to a finish. They feel that Detroit is really responsible for these people morally, if not legally, and they feel that the persons responsible for the deportation failed in their duty to an American-born woman when they did not at least inform her that she had a right to apply for resumption of citizenship."

Canadian authorities pronounced her deportation regular but held it unreasonable and unfair to deport a woman after the death of her husband to a strange country where she has no relatives.

Mrs. Rotter, who has been investigating the case, says:

"A woman's right to her own country is a precious posession, sick or well, rich or poor, married or single, it is her country and she must not be dispossessed of her inalienable right to her country any more than a man.

"Where the fault lies in this deportation has not been definitely determined.

"The important question is: How can Mrs. Lillian Larsh get back to this country to file a petition for repatriation as she was an alien, and an alien once deported can never return?

"Another question: Can she file a petition in Canada?

"Still another: Will she have to take a literacy test? She can neither read nor write. It seems strange that a woman 43 years of age, born and raised in Detroit can neither read nor write and yet, she seems to have been a good mother.

"And, after all, many documents have in the past, been signed with a cross, and by good men and true.

"Then comes the question of her children, three Canadian-born.

"Having been deported, can they get back?

"Of course, the mother would not desert them. Mothers rarely desert their children.

"Many are the problems connected with this human interest story.

"The National Woman's Party is advised by some high-up authorities in the Department of Labor that probably an Act of Congress will be necessary to repatriate this woman.

"The National Woman's Party suggests through this rich experience in acquiring knowledge of deportation that every American-born alien woman about to be deported be made acquainted by the immigration authorities with her right of repatriation.

"This case has been suggested by Immigration authorities as a possible test case."

The following letter has been sent to the Commissioner General of Immigration:

"Washington, D. C.,
"May 2, 1931.

"In regard to case 55709/308, Detroit,
"Commissioner General of Immigration,
"Washington, D. C.

"DEAR SIR:

"Enclosed find copies of two telegrams which we have received recently in regard to Mrs. Lillian Larsh, an American-born woman, who has been deported to Canada with her four children.

"1. It would seem that she should have been notified of her right to repatriate herself, which you will note was not done.

"2. That her deportation was accomplished in an unnecessarily harsh and cruel manner.

"3. That it is a violation of the spirit of the recent laws which have been enacted to allow American women married to foreigners to repatriate themselves.

"We therefore ask you if you will be kind enough to investigate her case and see what can be done for her.

"Trusting that we may hear from you by return mail and acknowledging the courtesies which we have already been shown with regard to this case.

"Very truly,
(Signed) "ANNE C. ROTTER,
"National Woman's Party."

THE National Woman's Party promptly took issue with the announcement of the Department of Labor, as quoted in the press, to the effect that they had no alternative under the Immigration Law to deporting Mrs. Larsh.

Burnita Shelton Matthews, chairman of the Lawyers' Council of the National Woman's Party, pointed out that the Department of Labor had ample authority to postpone deportation and thus allow Mrs. Larsh time to make application for resumption of her United States citizenship.

"Mrs. Larsh is said to be illiterate," she continued. "If that be true, there is all the more reason why the Department of Labor should have pursued the humane policy of advising this poor woman, who had no way of finding it out for herself, that she might make application to regain the citizenship of which she had been deprived without her own consent upon marriage to a Canadian."

"Her poverty is an argument brought forward by the Department of Labor to excuse the harsh action taken against her. Her poverty is undeniable; yet she was not even allowed time to sell her few household belongings before being hurried out of her native country and across the border. Such haste was inexcusable. Extension of time before deportation has been allowed to men aliens of foreign birth even when they have been charged with serious offenses. The most serious offense of this American-born mother of four children, is poverty."

A few days after the National Woman's Party learned of the Larsh case, Muna Lee, going through some newspapers, found a headline: "Al Capone, American-born, Can't Be Deported."

Mrs. Larsh, whose only crime, we repeat, is poverty and illiteracy, was deported, although American-born. Al Capone, they say in Chicago is a "public enemy," but he cannot be deported because he has the inalienable right every American-born man has. Mrs. Larsh, they say in Detroit, is a public charge, and the lack of inalienable rights for American-born women is made clear.

Open Door Council Meeting

THE fifth annual meeting of the Open Door Council of England, held in London on April 24, had the following resolutions before it:

1. The Right of the Married Woman to Engage in Paid Work.

"This meeting demands that married woman shall have the right at all times to decide whether or not she shall engage in paid work, and asserts that it is against the public interest and an infringement of the individual citizen's rights that a woman should be refused employment on account of her marriage or required to resign in the event of her marriage."

This resolution was proposed by the National Union of Women Teachers, and the Executive Committee moved a rider to it calling attention to the fact that the present attack on the right of married women to paid work is world-wide in scope.

2. The Revision of the International Labor Office Night Work Convention.

"The O. D. C. calls attention to the fact that the International Labor Organization adopted the (Washington, 1919) Convention Concerning the Employment of Women During the Night:

"(1) without discussing the principles involved in the prohibition of work for women;

"(2) without considering the economic effects of the prohibition on women;

"(3) without consideration of the changed and changing position of women, political, educational and social;

"(4) without issuing a proper questionnaire upon this important subject, and that the convention was not submitted to the 'double discussion' procedure which recent conventions have had to undergo.

"The O. D. C. requests His Majesty's Government to instruct its delegates to the forthcoming International Labor Conference:

"(a) to propose and vote for the postponement until 1932 of the discussion of the two proposals now on the Agends for revision of the convention; and

"(b) to propose and vote for the placing on the Agenda of the 1932 I. L. Conference a general discussion of the merits of prohibiting night work to women only.

"The O. D. C. further declares that no Night Work Convention will be acceptable unless it provides that any prohibition or regulation of night work is based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

(Proposed by Winifred Le Sueur for the Executive Committee.)

3. The "Women Themselves" Fallacy.

"The O. D. C. draws attention to the fallacy involved in the suggestion that if 'the women themselves' are in favor of so-called 'protective' legislation, such legislation is beneficial; and points out that if it is in itself right and just, as we declare it to be, that the regulation of conditions of work should be based on the nature of the work and not upon sex, this rightness and justice is not dependent on the views of such women or any other section of the community.

"And further in any case the O. D. C. points out that:

"(1) the women immediately affected by such regulations are not so organized in their own economic interest as to be able to express independent views, since the controlling policy of trade unionism is in the hands of men, and too often the economic interests of women are sacrificed to those of the men;

"(2) where women directly concerned have known and realized the

effects of proposed restrictions on their right to paid work, they have protested against this so-called 'protective' legislation, as in the case of the mining women, Pit Brow women, the Cradley Heath chairmakers, the Scottish herring-fishery girls, the barmaids, the women acrobats and gymnasts, the women florists, and women decorators.

"(3) it is significant that at the present time the strongly organized women of the most progressive countries — Sweden and Denmark — have publicly declared themselves at International Trade Union and Labor meetings as opposed to restrictions placed on women only.

(Proposed by Monica Whately for the Executive Committee.)

4. The Trade Union Organization of Women.

"The O. D. C. declares that the present policy of organizing women on the assumption that they are and must remain an inferior and less well-paid group of workers is wrong.

"The organization of women in unions which:

"(a) deliberately forbid women to work in certain processes; or

"(b) seek to turn women out of jobs; or

"(c) negotiate a lower wage rate for women than for men does not help women, but lowers their status and hinders their economic progress.

"The O. D. C. therefore declares that the only trade union policy which will help the woman as worker and wage earner is a policy which:

"(a) recognizes a woman as a human being of no less worth than a man; and

"(b) demands for her the right to equal entry, apprenticeship opportunity, conditions and pay.

(Proposed by Mrs. E. M. White for the Executive Committee.)

5. Women and Rationalization.

"The O. D. C. calls attention to the development and prospective increase of rationalization throughout industry and to the fact that such rationalization may involve the running of machinery either for many consecutive hours or continuously.

"Should this involve any general introduction of the two-shift or three-shift system, the position of the wage-earning woman would be still more seriously menaced, inasmuch as under the present restrictions placed on her hours of work she has not the same freedom or right to work as a man.

"The O. D. C. therefore demands that the Government shall so amend the present Hours of Industrial Employment Bill (giving effect to the terms of the Washington Hours I. L. O. Convention of 1919) so as to secure:

"(a) the application of the 8-hour day and 48-hour week;

"(b) the denunciation of the I. L. O. Nightwork Convention;

"(c) the regulation of night work;

"(d) the scheduling of necessarily continuous processes, so that throughout industry the daily and weekly regulation of hours, the regulation of night work and admission to continuous processes shall apply equally to adult men and women."

(Proposed by Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence for the Executive Committee.)

The executive committee asked leave to move an "urgency resolution" on women and unemployment, and unemployment insurance, a copy of which has not yet reached this country.

AMONG the speakers were Lord Buckmaster, Dame Ethel Smyth, Nancy Stewart Parnell, Cicely Hamilton, Victor Duval, and Elizabeth Abbott.

The meeting also took up the question of appointing its delegation to the second conference of the Open Door International in Stockholm, Sweden, August 17-23. The National Woman's Party is affiliated with the Open Door International.

One Form of Feminism

By Ruby A. Black

A Review of "Easier Motherhood," by Constance L. Todd. The John Day Company, New York

CONSTANCE L. TODD, in her plea for more widespread use of one method of making childbirth less painful, or at any rate for more widespread information on this technic, does not stress the Feminist aspects of her subject.

Nevertheless the problem of making motherhood easier for the body and the nerves is at least a tangent upon Feminism.

Doubtless a large part of the theory of the inferiority and subordination of woman arose out of the same curse to which Mrs. Todd traces the present attitude toward the pain of childbirth. Such pain has always been taken for granted, she says, and it is "in people's minds in a totally different category from disease, which calls for cure." The Bible, she continues, "started us off in an unhappy association of ideas which we have absorbed as a creed," quoting the Lord's words to Eve as recorded in Genesis:

"I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

A curious survival of this idea, and an interesting slant on it is given in a newspaper column by Mrs. Walter Ferguson, herself a mother and quite often a Feminist, published in Scripps-Howard newspapers:

"Certain physicians have announced that there will never be such a thing as painless childbirth.

"For the good of the women, I hope they are right. Because this 'agony of motherhood' has been one of the strongest weapons Nature ever placed in our hands. It is a pang that no man knows, and for that reason through countless ages we have used it in the management of imaginative and sympathetic husbands.

"Think of how novelists have sobbed over the courage of women who have gone down into the 'Valley of the Shadow.' Remember all the word pictures of distracted husbands walking the floor while awaiting the news of the arrival of the heir?

"It would be tragic to take away that bit of sentiment from a world already so depleted of softening things. With painless childbirth Papa might just as well spend the portentous moments at a nice little poker game, and that, you must admit, would not be half so exciting as to keep him parked in the reception room of a hospital all night.

"All of us agree, I am sure, that childbirth should be made easier, but I imagine that few women would like to think of it as absolutely painless.

"It's not such a bad thing for us to have to endure a certain amount of suffering for our babies. In the last analysis, if it were not for the physical anguishes we must sometimes undergo, we could have no adequate conception of the blessing of good health.

" 'The peace that passeth understanding' is what the mother experiences after the birth of her child. And it's the most blissful sensation a mortal can know, especially when there's a baby on your arm."

This attitude would seem to any Feminist, I believe, perfectly ridiculous, and surely Feminists must agree with Mrs. Todd that "The racking horror of childbirth is a stupid and cruel survival," and we can all hope that the rest of her sentence is true—"in a world that possesses the medical knowledge that makes it needless."

In addition to the immediate amnesia at the time of childbirth, Mrs. Todd emphasizes the relief from fear during the long time in which childbirth is foreseen as certain, and the quicker recovery from the effects of childbirth. These are of particular importance to the self-supporting Feminist, for she must continue her work as long as possible before the birth of her child, and her mind should be as free as possible from fear during that time. If she is to continue to be self-supporting, she must recover as soon as possible from the bodily and mental effects of childbirth.

Mrs. Todd quotes a Pacific Coast obstetrician who has been using the method she advocates—the Gwathmey technic of synergistic colonic analgesia:

"I have been quite enthusiastic over it from the start. I found that the mothers were spared the dreadful anxiety attending the advent of a first birth, after they were assured that their labor would be reasonably painless. I also found that mothers with the second and subsequent children could hardly believe that labor could be over so easily.

"The first morning after delivery these women look and feel refreshed, as though the delivery had been three or four days previously, and as a result get a real rest from their ten days to two weeks in bed.

"I find that the infants are born in good condition. They cry readily and breathing is easily established, there being no depression due to long and difficult labors.

"I have had no infant mortality with this method. Forceps deliveries have been cut down. I find that with the nervous, highstrung patient the results are nothing short of miraculous. It has been my observation that most of the specialists in our section rather frown upon the method."

Mrs. Todd discounts the opposition of some physicians to the method on the grounds that it requires the presence of the physician longer than does the "time-honored habit of dignified inactivity while the woman suffers patiently or otherwise," using here the words of a Washington, D. C., obstetrician. Mrs. Todd even quotes some frank doctors to the effect that this is their objection to the method, which she advocates as a less expensive method that can be used anywhere that physicians will take the trouble to learn it, not requiring elaborate hospital facilities.

Being neither physician nor mother, I cannot judge the method she recommends. Mrs. Todd is not a physician, but she is the mother of two children, one born by "the time-honored" method and the other by the method on which she is so enthusiastic. While obviously an advocate, Mrs. Todd nevertheless quotes medical opinion against the Gwathmey technic as well as quantities of medical opinion for it.

Despite my lack of expert opinion, however, I feel that I may say that the subject is of extreme importance to women, that if women are to feel that all their lives they can be independent persons, still living full normal lives, they need greatly to know that there are methods of relieving the pain of childbirth, and the advance terrors and the subsequent nervous reactions. If women can view without alarm and with courage the prospects of having their children, and can recover happily and promptly from childbirth, they can make the rest of their lives, the part in which sex should be of no concern, with much greater faith and security. In other words, if a woman can look forward to parenthood, and look back upon it, with as little anxiety and pain as a man can, she can with much greater equality with man live the rest of her life, confident in her strength and ability, rejecting all privileges and all handicaps based upon sex and upon actual or prospective motherhood.

Feminist Notes

Alimony for Husband

"WOULD you deny divorced wives alimony?" ask opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment. The question need no longer be answered, really, for alimony is becoming increasingly a matter of the nature of the case, not the sex of the applicant.

California has just added to the several instances in which wives have been ordered to pay alimony to their divorced husbands. Superior Judge Guy Rush of Los Angeles on April 20 instructed Hattie E. Shuler, 53 years old, to pay $65 a month to her husband, Chester E. Shuler, 54 years old, and in addition to provide him with lodging, rent-free, in one of her apartment houses. The husband testified he was penniless.

The Shulers were married in 1921 and separated two years later.

Want Equality in Church

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND is "poorer by reason of the debarring of women from its ministry and other offices," and the women of Scotland are determined to break through this barrier just as they have done in the Baptist, Congregational, and Unitarian churches.

A petition seeking the right to serve as ministers, elders, and deacons in the Church of Scotland will be presented to the Scotch General Assembly in May. It is signed by 350 women members of the congregations in the Edinburgh Presbytery.

The editor of *Life and Work* wanted to run a symposium on the record of the Church of Scotland in his April issue, but he found it difficult to locate any member of the faction opposed to the admission of women to the ministry who was brave enough or logical enough to put his objections in print.

Elizabeth G. K. Hewat, a bachelor of divinity in the University of Edinburgh, wrote in an article that it seemed strange to her that "in Scotland, where co-education is the accepted thing, boys and girls can go all the way together, and then when fully qualified the girl is denied entrance to the ministry." Dr. Frances Melville, Scotland's pioneer bachelor of divinity, also made an appeal for "the university girl who wishes to serve her fellows."

Married Women Ousted

MARRIED women in the employ of the City of Syracuse, New York, who have husbands working and "able to support them," may be discharged to make jobs for men as the result of a census ordered by Mayor Rolland B. Marvin. Any action following the survey will not affect women employed under Civil Service, it was said. Department heads were checking on their married women employees, the *Associated Press* dispatch said.

Today we heard the following conversation on a Virginia bus:

"So the school board called her in and asked her if she needed the job more than somebody else might, and she told them she had those two boys to raise, and nobody was supporting her."

"Well," said the other fat, well-dressed occupant of the seat, "she has alimony. But she is bringing up those boys right."

Mayor at 73

AT THE age of 73 Julia Platt, Harvard graduate and noted biologist, has just started out in politics and has become mayor of Pacific Grove, California.

This is the first office she has held.

In defense of her conception of civic duty, Dr. Platt has swung an ax and spaded a highway during her thirty years in Pacific Grove.

Edits Annual

MARY HUDSON of George Washington University has been chosen editor-in-chief of the university student annual, *The Cherry Tree*. This is a position and honor few women students at the university have held.

Reports herald the 1931 yearbook as one of the most attractive ever issued at George Washington.

First Legislator Dies

HELEN SHAY, the first woman ever elected to the Wisconsin State Legislature, died in Syracuse, New York, on April 14. Mrs. Shay, then Helen Merrifield Brooks, was elected a member of the Wisconsin Assembly in 1924 and served two years, being present at every session in that term. She retired from politics when she married Edward F. Shay in 1926.

Engineer Honored

JANE RIDER, director of the Arizona State Laboratory, is said to be the second woman elected an associate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Elsie Eaves, elected in 1927, was the first. Four women are junior members. None are regular members. Miss Rider is a specialist in sanitary engineering and in biology, and superintends the examination of sanitary engineering in the State.

News from the Field

Montana Branch Hears Historian

DR. PAUL C. PHILLIPS, distinguished Feminist and professor of history in the University of Montana, spoke on Equal Rights for Women at a dinner given by the Montana Branch of the National Woman's Party at the Y. W. C. A. in Missoula on Saturday, May 2. Dr. Phillips is the author of "The West in the Diplomacy of the American Revolution," and of other important contributions to historical research. He is the author of articles in the Encyclpoedia Britannica, the Dictionary of American Biography, and similar works of reference.

Maine Women Oppose Restrictions

WHILE it is late to report something that happened March 17, the account written by Charles J. Oberly for the Portland (Maine) *Evening News* on the stand of Maine women, headed by Gail Laughlin, vice-chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, is so graphic and excellent that it would be a shame to miss it. It follows:

"Rudyard Kipling's oft-quoted lines about the female of the species being more deadly than the male were given ample demonstration in the State House Tuesday afternoon when a feminine whirlwind burst into a hearing of the Committee on Labor and nearly swept the committee out of the window.

"Led by Gail Laughlin, Portland woman lawyer, the embattled female delegation served notice on the committee that the women of Maine do not want any law on the statute books which discriminates against their sex; that they will not stand for such a law and that if any masculine legislator doesn't want to get hurt he had better get out of the way.

"The delegation specifically appeared in opposition to a bill which would limit the hours of labor of women and children in industry to 48 hours a week. It did not oppose another bill sponsored by Representative Sterns of Biddeford, which would establish a 48-hour limit for men and women both.

"That bill was opposed by Benjamin F. Cleaves, manager of the Associated Industries of Maine, who brought with him a whole battalion of earnest employers of labor to join in the protest.

"Miss Laughin informed the committee that restrictions on women are wrong in principal and disastrous in effect and that as a representative of the National Association of Women Lawyers and the Women's Literary Club of Portland she opposed any law which imposed restrictions based on sex and not on the nature of the work.

"She said the bill would relegate women to the least desirable place in the scale of labor; shut the door of opportunity to women and make every woman a clock watcher.

"The committee was advised to do something about the hours of women in the homes and cut the hours of housework before it meddled with women in industry. 'Take the washing out of the homes and send it to the laundries and you will do something,' Miss Laughlin said.

"She compared the effects of the law to a race in which one competitor carried a ball and chain and the other was unburdened. Its proponents were unsportsmanlike, she claimed, and she declared that all women asked was a fair field and no favors.

"Others who spoke against the bill were Mrs. Hutchins, president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs; Miss Marion E. Martin, Representative from Bangor; Miss Marguerite Brooks of Augusta, and a half dozen others who simply popped up in their seats and flayed the bill right and left."

Brazilian Feminists to Meet

"ECONOMIC emancipation of women is the fundamental feature of the program," says the announcement of the Feminist Congress of the Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women to be held June 19-30.

The National Woman's Party has sent a full set of its literature, including a number of copies of Doris Stevens' "Jailed for Freedom," to the exposition to be held in connection with the Feminist Congress.

This is the second Feminist Congress held by the Brazialian Federation and the first exposition. The congress and the exposition will be held in Rio de Janeiro.

Bertha Lutz, with whose Feminist work readers of EQUAL RIGHTS are familiar, is president of the Federation, and Amanda Finch is secretary.

Equal civil and political rights are also to be discussed at the Congress.

Olivera M. de Lima, representative of Brazil on the Inter-American Commission of Women, and a devoted member of the National Woman's Party, informs us that Brazilian women continue their splendidly organized campaign for Equal Rights. Furthermore, they seem to have captured the imagination of the press and general public, an excellent augury of ultimate success. Mme. Lima sends us the following translation of a recent article in one of the leading dailies of Rio de Janeiro:

"The press in Rio is simply possessed with the idea of Feminism! All the papers have taken up the subject. They publish interviews with the leaders of the movement and examine the possibilities of the women co-operating in the reorganization of the laws that are going to be elaborated under the new government of the republic.

"*A Batalha,* a daily paper, studies the interest that Baptista Leonardo is taking in the appeal made to him by the women of Brazil, and gives him credit for putting himself at the head of all the great and liberal movements in the country. It has words of high appreciation about the progressive ideas of this political leader from South Brazil, who has received most favorably the appeal made to him, and quite understands that the new Republican Government would not fulfill its program if it failed to grant women the right to vote.

"Thanks to his efforts in that respect, the Provisional Government has put the matter in the hands of De. Ossis Brazil, former Minister to Washington and a notable legislator, who is to draw the scheme for the law which is to grant the women of Brazil equal political rights with men."

(Note: Baptista Leonardo is Mayor of Rio de Janeiro.)

Maria Eugenia Celso, in an interview also published by *A Batalha,* says that political equality is to be looked on merely as one station on the road to complete equality in all relationships.

"Everything is yet to be done in Brazil," she declares. "As regards the vote, at last we have actually opened up a path hitherto inaccessible to us."

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